

**A Comparison of National Certifications Across School Professionals**  
 Compiled by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) June 2012

	<b>NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER (NBCT)</b>	<b>NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NCSP)</b>	<b>NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR (NCSC)</b>
<b>AWARDED BY</b>	The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)	National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)	National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
<b>ABOUT</b>	The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental organization. It was created in 1987, with the purpose of advancing the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching, and creating a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts	The NCSP is a credential awarded through the National School Psychology Certification System of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), which is an independent, not-for-profit professional organization who created the NCSP for the purpose of credentialing school psychologists who meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards of graduate preparation, ethical and professional practice, and continuing professional development.	The NCSC is a credential awarded through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The NBCC is an independent, not-for-profit credentialing body, which was incorporated in 1982, whose purpose is to establish and monitor a national certification system, to identify for professionals and the public those counselors who have voluntarily sought and obtained certification, and to maintain a register of those counselors.
<b>WHY BECOME NATIONALLY CERTIFIED</b>	<p>NBPTS Certification is a way for the teaching profession to define and recognize highly accomplished practice. Teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met high standards through study, expert evaluation, self assessment and peer review. The process of applying for and earning National Board Certification through the NBCT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthens practice.</li> <li>2. Helps students succeed.</li> <li>3. Builds leadership skills.</li> <li>4. Helps expand influence and expertise with regard to curricular decisions and policies.</li> <li>5. Helps advance careers.</li> <li>6. Provides portability.</li> <li>7. Offers higher salary potential.</li> </ol>	<p>The NCSP credential aims to promote excellence in the field of school psychology by acknowledging school psychologists who meet rigorous nationally recognized standards of graduate preparation, ethical practice, and competency. Specially, national certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advances graduate preparation and practice standards to promote best practices in service to children and youth</li> <li>2. Provides uniform national standards to measure professional qualifications</li> <li>3. Encourages continuing professional growth and development</li> <li>4. Enhances professional opportunities for credentialed school psychologists</li> </ol>	<p>The National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) is a specialty credential which recognizes counselors who possess a minimum of a master's degree in counseling with coursework in school counseling and who have passed a challenging national application and examination process. NCSCs have a strong commitment to the school counselling profession and to providing high quality services to students, parents, teachers and communities. Some advantages of this certification include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification as master's level counseling practitioners who work in school settings</li> <li>2. Recognition by other mental health professionals as experts on the mental health needs of today's school children and adolescents</li> </ol>

	<p>8. Enhances education.</p> <p>9. Meets most states' definition of "highly qualified teacher" under NCLB.</p>	<p>5. Facilitates state certification through reciprocity with states that accept the NCSP</p>	<p>3. Demonstration of an ongoing commitment to high quality school counseling services through continuing education</p> <p>4. Salary increases in an increasing number of states and school systems across the country</p>
<b>PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<p>To qualify for national certification, candidates must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a bachelor's degree</li> <li>2. Have completed three full years of teaching/counseling experience</li> <li>3. Possess a valid state teaching/counseling license for that period of time, or, if teaching where a license is not required, have taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the state</li> </ol>	<p>To qualify for the NCSP, candidates must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours (i.e., specialist-level) in an organized program of study officially titled "School Psychology".</li> <li>2. Complete a rigorous program of study including supervised practica and a culminating 1,200 clock- hour supervised internship</li> <li>3. Obtain a passing score on the Praxis II® National School Psychologist Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service (#0401). Graduates of NASP approved programs have met all coursework requirements for the NCSP. All other applicants must provide a portfolio documenting knowledge and skills (see below).</li> </ol>	<p>To qualify for national certification candidates must complete an eligible Master's degree or higher in counseling. This achievement is documented with a sealed, official transcript showing degree conferral.</p>
<b>REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION</b>	<p>The Assessment Process: Portfolio Entries Candidates are required to submit four portfolio entries. Three are classroom based, where video recordings and examples of student work serve as supporting documentation. A fourth entry relates to accomplishments outside of the classroom – with families, the community or colleagues – and how they impact student learning. Assessment Center Exercises Candidates must also demonstrate content knowledge in response to 6 exercises developed for your chosen certificate area. Candidates have up to 30 minutes to complete each exercise. Scoring Once you have submitted your portfolio entries and assessment center exercises, your complete work will be scored by a minimum of 12 teachers who have successfully completed intensive training and have been qualified for scoring based on their understanding of NBPTS standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Along with the requirements stated above, applicants from non-NASP approved programs must demonstrate competency in 11 domains of professional practice: 1. Data-based Decision-Making and Accountability 2. Consultation and Collaboration 3. Effective Instruction and Development of Cognitive/Academic Skills 4. Socialization and Development of Life Skills 5. Student Diversity in Development and Learning 6. School and Systems Organization, Policy Development, and Climate 7. Prevention, Crisis Intervention, and Mental Health 8. Home/School/Community Collaboration 9. Research and Program Evaluation 10.</p>	<p>Applicants should have completed a master's degree consisting of 48 semester hours of graduate-level credit with 2 semester hours or greater in 8 content areas listed below and at least 6 semester hours of field experience. 1. Human Growth and Development 2. Social and Cultural Foundations 3. Helping Relationships 4. Group Work 5. Career and Lifestyle Development 6. Appraisal 7. Research and Program Evaluation 8. Professional Orientation to Counseling 9. Field Experience (In a counseling setting) Applicants must also obtain: Passing score on the National Counselor Exam (NCE) Documentation of post-graduate</p>

		School Psychology Practice and Development 11. Information Technology Candidates must also complete a NCSP Case Study. This requirement demonstrates that the candidate possess the professional skills necessary to deliver effective services that result in positive, measurable outcomes for students	counseling experience and supervision: 3,000 hours with a minimum of 100 hours of counseling supervision--both over a 24-month post-master's period. Supervisors must hold a master's degree or higher in a mental health field. (Note: The post-master's experience and supervision requirements are waived for graduate students who have completed CACREP accredited tracks.)
<b>COST</b>	The cost of the NBPTS National Board Certification is \$2,500.00 with an additional \$65 nonrefundable application processing fee, and a nonrefundable \$500 initial fee. There are federal, state, and local funding sources as well as scholarships from corporations and organizations that will reimburse up to \$2000	Initial certification fees range depending on membership status and whether the applicant graduated from a NASP approved program. NASP-approved program graduate fees for initial certification are \$60 (student, 1st year, leave of absence), \$85 (2nd year in practice), \$110 (full member); \$210 (nonmember). Fees for graduates from non-approved programs pay are \$160, \$210, \$260, and \$360 respectively for the categories listed above. The examination fee \$130 (\$50 one-time registration fee plus \$80 test fee) payable to ETS.	Application fee of \$295. The NCSC application and examination fee may vary depending upon postmark date and exam status. Please check the website for the most up to date information. NCSCs must adhere to the NBCC Code of Ethics, and must pay, on a yearly basis, the annual maintenance fee of \$100 for NCE and \$30 for NCSC. There is also an Examination fee.
<b>RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	National board certification is valid for a period of 10 years. NBCT holders can only renew certification in the original certificate area, and can only formally begin working on certification renewal as early as year eight of the certification period. Renewal applicants must currently hold a valid teaching license in the state they are working, and must demonstrate their Pre-k-12 teaching experience. The total fee for certificate renewal is \$1,250.00 nonrefundable application fee.	NCSPs must engage in activities designed to maintain, expand, and extend their professional training and skills. Specifically, each NCSP must be renewed every three years with 75 contact hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities. 10 of the 75 CPD hours must come from NASP- or APA-approved providers. NCSPs must also accrue 3 hours of CPD regarding ethical practice and/or the legal regulation of school psychology. The renewal fees are \$99 for NASP Members.	National Certified School Counselors are required to provide documentation to completion of: 1. Annual maintenance of \$30.00 during each 5- year certification period 2. 100 contact clock hours from the 10 approved content areas of continuing education over the five year period. Or, NCSCs can take and pass the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certified (NCE) again.